

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 16156 282138Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EPA-01 OES-06 CEQ-01 PA-01 PRS-01
USIA-06 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /047 W
-----282323Z 014078 /66

R 282020Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9387
INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO
AMCONSUL MONTERREY
AMCONSUL MATAMOROS BY POUCH
AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO BY POUCH
AMCONSUL TIJUANA BY POUCH

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PASS EPA FOR GREEN AND TRAIN, IBWC FOR COMMISSIONER FRIEDKIN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, MX
SUBJ: ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ALONG THE US-MEXICAN BORDER

REF: MEXICO 16108

1. MEXICAN PRESS AND RADIO HAVE RECENTLY INITIATED PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AGAINST WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS U.S. ORIGIN POLLUTION CONTAMINATING MEXICANS ALONG BORDER. HEADLINES SUCH AS QUOTE MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND INHABITANTS OF JUAREZ POISONED BY AMERICAN SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY (ASARCO) UNQUOTE AND QUOTE TEN THOUSAND CHILDREN AFFECTED BY POLLUTION FROM SMELTING IN EL PASO UNQUOTE ARE FOLLOWED BY ARTICLES QUOTING OFFICIALS OF SUB-SECRETARIAT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT (SMA) DESCRIBING WHAT THEY CONSIDER VERY SERIOUS SITUATION.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 16156 282138Z

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, GUILLERMO DAVILA OF WHO AND PAHO REPRESENTATIVES HAVE QUESTIONED THE PRESS AS TO WHY ALL THIS PUBLICITY CONSIDERING THAT THIS PROBLEM HAD BEEN UNDER CONTROL FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS THROUGH JOINT US-MEXICAN EFFORTS AND MOST OF INFO APPEARING IN THE PAPERS HAS COME FROM A STUDY MADE ONE AND ONE-HALF

YEARS AGO OF THE SITUATION NOW BEING GREATLY IMPROVED.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CURRENT ANTI-POLLUTION CAMPAIGN, WHICH INCIDENTALLY ALSO CRITICIZES DOMESTIC SOURCES OF POLLUTION, IS DUE TO EFFORT ON PART OF NEW SUB-SECRETARY OF SMA ING. UMBERTO ROMERO-ALVAREZ ATTEMPTING TO CREATE NEW IMAGE AND DISASSOCIATE AGENCY FROM PUBLICLY DISGRACED FORMER SUB-SECRETARY VIZCANIO-MURRAY.

4. EPA ADMINISTRATOR RUSSELL TRAIN MAY WISH TO WRITE PERSONAL LETTER TO SUB-SECRETARY ROMERO CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS NEW APPOINTMENT AND INFORMING HIM OF SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF PAST US-MEXICAN COOPERATION IN THIS AREA AND INTENTION TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND SUCH COOPERATION. EMBSCICOUNS WILL FOLLOW UP IN SAME VEIN.

JOVA

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED IBWC.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 28 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: coburnhl
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: SENV, MX, US
To: STATE
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